

As the timber was cleared the level and more fertile land was taken for agriculture in Pocahontas County. The land and climate was adapted to livestock farming and so livestock of all kinds was imported from other sections the greater number being sheep no doubt as they are known as the Golden Hoof ~~EX~~ for Pocahontas County as for many years the sale of wool and lambs has brought more money into the county than any other thing. About the first sheep brought in by the first settlers was the Merino that has long been famous for its fine wool as well as mutton qualities, this furnished wool for the many spinning wheels, carding machines and foot-powered looms, the Merino was a hardy sheep and well adapted to this county, these were followed by the Shropshire and Southdown which were not only desirable for wool purposes but produced fine quality of mutton and today this section of the Greenbrier Valley produces some of the best mutton lambs that is found in the state which are shipped to the eastern markets, where they are slaughtered and the carcasses dressing out better than the average, the ~~ex~~ sheep industry has contributed more toward the growth of the county than any other livestock, as we find sheep on 90% of the farms of Pocahontas County that give cash returns two times yearly the wool in the spring and the lamb crop in the fall, thus making them the most valuable livestock that the farmers of the county can keep and today you find fine flocks of sheep of many different breeds

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grazing on the hills and in the vales, but not in as great numbers as used to be as the bear that roam the mountainous sections of the county are plentiful and each year they eat and destroy several hundred dollars worth of sheep, some farmers going out of the business others handling only what they can keep in the more thickly populated and close in sections the dogs have played havoc with the sheep industry along with the bear and unless steps are taken to rid the county of bear and strict dog laws the sheep industry in Pocahontas County is on the decline and the peak was reached about 1930 as the government has bought up a large percent of the mountainous section of the county, with no inhabitants thus making this a bears paradise ideal for the sportsman but very hard on the sheep raisers and producers of the county thus a decrease in the sheep industry for which Pocahontas County is noted and gets her greatest cash income from. As sheep thrive on high ground and most of this is government owned the numbers will be less, their lives shorter and a decrease in income to the farmers.

In Pocahontas we find many Registered flocks, namely Hampshires, Dorsets, Cheviots, Southdown Shropshire and Corridales most of these flocks have been established since 1900 and today some of the best flocks of these breeds that are found in the state are found in Pocahontas County and most of these flocks are exhibited at the Pocahontas County Fair, The Greenbrier NEX Valley

fair and some going to The Richmond State Fair and to Baltimore winning many prizes. The first Purebred herds established in Pocahontas County were Hampshires beyond a doubt and were brought into the county by F.H McLaughlin and his brother the late Lee P McLaughlin both of Hillsboro and at present we find XX flocks of Purebred Hampshires owned By Ralph Arbogast of Millpoint, one by F.H Williams and A.C Barlow of Marlinton and one by Monroe Beard at Arbovale, W.A Arbogast of Millpoint has a fine flock of Cheviots, we find Dorsets and Southdowns scattered throughout the county but the largest flock of Dorsets is owned by A.C Barlow and the most Southdowns are being produced by F.H Williams with S.G Smith of Hillsboro starting a purebred flock of Southdowns, these breeders furnish rams to the many sheep men of the county and state, many of which are sold through the Extension Department at the many ram sales held throughout the state.

Cattle are next in importance in the way of income in the county and we have two types the beef type and the dairy type but the most important at this time is the beef animal as many farmers and cattle men throughout the county produce and sell the finished product found in the 3 year old steer these come from Hereford, Shorthorn and Aberdeen-Angus breeds for which the county is famous, one of the first breeders of Purebred Beef Cattle was the late Richard Callison who bought some Registered Herefords from out of the

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County he was a large livestock farmer on Locust Creek, his work was carried on by his sons E. B. & D. M. Callison. Today you find Registered herds in many sections of the county where bluegrass grows you will find plenty of fat cattle. The late J. S. McNeel of the Levels was a pioneer in the Purebred Beef Cattle business as he brought into the county from all parts of the U. S. the finest cattle that money could buy at that time and today some of the same bloodlines that these gentlemen brought to the county still exist. Among the breeders of Hereford cattle that were registered are the following men besides the ones above mentioned F. P. Kidd breeder of Herefords and Aberdeen Angus, M. C. Smith of Hillsboro, A. C. Barlow and Chas. Baxter of the Edray section and Howard Hevener of the Greenbank section.

*the late J. M. Gault of Beard now operated by his son J. R.*  
E. H. Williams of Marlinton is breeder of Milking Shorthorns these men make up the bulk of the Purebred breeders of Pocahontas County. Each year some of these men exhibit at the Pocahontas County Fair at Marlinton, thus advertising their stock for which they find a ready sale from all over the state.

Many breeders are sold through the calf sale at Marlinton and the best taken to Jacksons Mill to be sold there to the many livestock breeders from over the state.

According to reliable authority the man to which much credit should go is to our past county agent O. P. Dorsey as he no doubt did more for the